Guide to pediatric services

Helping children reach their full potential

UC DAVIS
CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
UC Davis Children’s Hospital is the tertiary and quaternary care pediatric hospital for children throughout Northern California, north to the Oregon border and east to Nevada. The region’s only nationally ranked, comprehensive hospital for children, UC Davis Children’s Hospital offers children and their families the highest level of care for virtually every pediatric health condition, from autism to urology.

Care for critically ill neonates and children is provided in our pediatric emergency department, pediatric intensive care unit/pediatric cardiac intensive care unit (PICU/PCICU), Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and children’s surgery center. Each offers compassionate, personalized care through the collaboration of multidisciplinary teams of physicians, nurses, specialists and other professionals.

UC Davis Children’s Hospital is on hand every step of the way to help children and their families overcome illness, heal from injury and receive therapy for disability. Our physicians and nurses provide expert care 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children with a broad range of health conditions.

Whether they’ve been involved in a traumatic accident and enter the hospital through the Level I pediatric trauma center – the only one in inland Northern California – have been transferred to the NICU from a community hospital or are referred for treatment from one of our primary care clinics, UC Davis Children’s Hospital helps children reach their full potential.
Primary and specialty care

Physician expertise

UC Davis Children’s Hospital offers the broadest range of pediatric specialty care in the region. Our subspecialists are board certified in more than 30 areas of pediatric medicine, offering patients a wealth of diagnostic and therapeutic services. Our comprehensive services include:

- Anesthesiology
- Adolescent medicine
- Cancer, including stem-cell transplants
- Cardiology and cardiac surgery
- Chest surgery
- Child and adolescent psychiatry
- Child development and behavior
- Child neurology
- Child protection
- Critical-care medicine
- Dermatology
- Ear, nose and throat
- Emergency medicine
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology and nutrition
- General pediatrics
- General pediatric surgery
- Genetics
- Hematology
Primary care physicians
From flagship outpatient primary and specialty care on the UC Davis Health System campus to clinics throughout the Sacramento region, families can rely on highly qualified caring UC Davis Medical Group physicians for primary and preventive care. Our pediatric and family practice physicians are available at UC Davis Medical Group offices conveniently located throughout Sacramento, Placer and Yolo counties. In the event that a child needs to see a specialist, their primary care physician can provide the necessary referral.

Exceptional primary nursing model
Children at UC Davis Children’s Hospital are assigned a “primary” nurse who is responsible for coordinating their care. This relationship ensures better continuity of care and communication with family members, and helps each child feel more secure during their hospital stay. We are proud to maintain a nurse-patient ratio that meets or exceeds state requirements – each nurse cares for no more than three or four patients on the general inpatient floors and only one or two patients in the intensive care units.

Child Life Program
UC Davis’ child life and creative arts therapy department helps to minimize the anxiety of hospitalization for children and strengthen their coping skills while allowing them to continue their typical growth and development. Child life specialists, along with music and art therapists, provide bedside play and procedural support, age-appropriate coping strategies, accompaniment during medical interventions and continued education to families, staff and physicians about the special needs of hospitalized children. Play materials are provided at each child’s bedside and in the teen and children’s playrooms.
UC Davis’ child life specialists:

- Provide information, support, and guidance to families
- Explain medical and surgical procedures to children using play puppets and medical equipment
- Accompany children to medical procedures and/or surgery to provide explanation, reassurance and emotional support
- Help siblings understand the hospital environment, coping and visitation
- Arrange special events for children and families to help normalize the hospital environment

Art and music therapists utilize the creative arts to promote healing by offering tools for self-expression while children cope with symptoms, stress or traumatic experiences. The program also includes a full-time school teacher, a playroom coordinator and many volunteers.

**Pediatric telemedicine**

UC Davis’ pediatric telemedicine program, the first of its kind in the United States, provides physicians and patients real-time remote consultation and evaluation though interactive, high-definition video and audio communication. This enhanced video technology allows UC Davis to offer 24/7 expertise to remote health-care providers, without the need to transfer a patient to UC Davis Children’s Hospital.

UC Davis specialists conduct an average of 2,800 inpatient and outpatient telemedicine consultations each year. Through the program, UC Davis emergency medicine physicians, neonatologists and critical care specialists connect directly to remote hospital emergency departments, newborn nurseries and inpatient wards to provide care and consultation for infants, children and adolescents who experience traumatic injuries, life-threatening infectious diseases or other critical illnesses. UC Davis’ emergency department, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and pediatric intensive care unit/pediatric cardiac intensive care unit (PICU/PCICU) also utilize mobile telemedicine carts to speed access to specialists at UC Davis Children’s Hospital.
High-acuity services

**Pediatric emergency department and Level I trauma center**

UC Davis Children’s Hospital’s pediatric emergency department offers state-of-the-art care in a child-focused environment – including a separate waiting area dedicated to children and their families. We know children aren’t just small adults – our advanced equipment and technologies are specially designed and appropriately sized for children. Our physicians are specially trained in pediatric emergency medicine, understanding the subtle nuances of caring for critically ill or injured children.

UC Davis is also home to Northern California’s only Level I pediatric trauma center – one of only a handful throughout California. The trauma center serves as a referral resource for hospitals throughout Northern California, western Nevada and southern Oregon. The center’s trauma prevention and outreach program conducts hundreds of programs annually – on topics including car seats, water safety and bicycle and helmet safety – in communities throughout the Sacramento region to proactively reduce the incidence of preventable childhood injuries through education and awareness.
Neonatal intensive care unit
The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is a specialized place where babies with a variety of conditions are cared for, including those born very prematurely (at 37 weeks gestation or earlier), born with genetic disorders or who have respiratory, infectious, metabolic or other illnesses. Many NICU patients are transported from other institutions for specialized surgical intervention or diagnostic tests. UC Davis Children’s Hospital’s NICU is a designated Level III nursery for the Sacramento region. The special care nursery is a Level II-designated unit for children who are seriously ill but expected to recover more rapidly.

The combined NICU and special care nursery are staffed by neonatal caregivers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Working with subspecialists in other fields, such as cardiology and pulmonology, neonatologists provide expert care for infants with a variety of congenital and acquired health conditions.

Pediatric intensive care unit/pediatric cardiac intensive care unit
The state-of-the-art pediatric intensive care unit/pediatric cardiac intensive care unit (PICU/PCICU) at UC Davis Children’s Hospital offers care for the most critically ill and injured children. Here, pediatric critical care physicians partner with medical and surgical specialists and specially trained nurses and respiratory therapists to provide care for more than 1,000 infants, children and adolescents each year with conditions including severe trauma, congenital heart disease, respiratory failure and severe infections.

The unit has a 2-to-1 nurse-to-patient ratio, and critical care medicine physicians are on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Larger, single-patient rooms enhance family-centered care – a sleeping sofa and a chair in each room enable family members to remain at their child’s bedside around the clock. Each room has its own television and bathroom. Children who are well enough have access to an activity room with music, art and play therapy.
Extra-corporeal life support

Extracorporeal life support (ECLS), a highly specialized operating room technology, completely supports the heart and lungs of patients when their own heart or lungs fail or are overtaxed due to surgery or disease. ECLS may be used from several days to several weeks to provide the child’s body with the oxygen and blood supply needed to heal, while at the same time allowing the heart and lungs time to rest and recover.

A multidisciplinary team of surgeons, neonatologists, registered nurses, perfusionists, intensivists and other professionals care for children receiving ECLS in the PICU/PCICU. UC Davis’ ECLS program was recognized as a “Center of Excellence” by the international Extracorporeal Life Support Organization in 2012.

Critical care transport

The UC Davis Children’s Hospital critical care transport team is dedicated to serving patients throughout Northern and Central California, providing specialized pediatric or neonatal critical care when a seriously injured or ill child or infant needs to be transported to a hospital that offers specialized care.

Under the direct supervision of a UC Davis physician trained and experienced in pediatric or neonatal critical care medicine, our transport team has the expertise and equipment to properly care for newborns and children in an ambulance, airplane or helicopter. Transport team members provide continuing, specialized, inter-hospital critical care to ensure patients arrive safely at UC Davis Children’s Hospital.
Distinctive programs

**Pediatric surgery**
World-renowned pediatric surgeons at UC Davis Children’s Hospital provide expert surgical care, treating a wide range of congenital and acquired conditions in infants, children and adolescents. Our multidisciplinary surgical teams perform surgeries from basic to complex, using conventional and minimally invasive techniques in:

- Pediatric general surgery
- Neonatal surgery
- Pediatric thoracic and cardiothoracic surgery
- Pediatric surgical oncology

Children who undergo surgery at UC Davis are treated in our state-of-the-art children’s surgery center, specifically designed for the unique needs of children.
Pediatric cardiology services
The pediatric heart center within UC Davis Children’s Hospital offers diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical procedures for infants, children and adolescents with congenital or acquired heart defects. Our cardiologists and surgeons perform intricate corrections on newborns so that these children can lead normal, productive lives. UC Davis’ multidisciplinary team provides some of Northern California’s most sophisticated specialty and surgical expertise in:

- Pediatric cardiology
- Pediatric cardiothoracic surgery
- Cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology
- Fetal diagnosis of heart defects

Behavioral and developmental pediatrics
Physicians specializing in child development, neurology, genetics and child psychiatry provide services through the UC Davis MIND Institute, a unique interdisciplinary center on the forefront of researching and developing effective treatments, preventions and cures for neuro-developmental disorders such as autism, fragile X syndrome, Tourette syndrome and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The MIND Institute has distinguished itself among the foremost organizations worldwide conducting research into neurodevelopmental conditions.

Pediatric nephrology
Pediatric nephrologists at UC Davis care for children with diseases of the kidney, including acute renal failure, chronic kidney disease, hematuria, proteinuria, kidney stones and hypertension. Children who eventually require transplantation will benefit from UC Davis’ nationally recognized kidney transplant program.
Pediatric oncology

UC Davis Children’s Hospital and UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center – the region’s only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center – provide state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary care for children, adolescents and young adults with all types of malignancies. Our pediatric oncology services include:

- Medical, surgical and radiation oncology
- Pediatric infusion
- Comprehensive neuro-oncology services
- Late-effects clinic
- Online childhood cancer resources
Affiliations

**Shriners’ Hospitals for Children, Northern California**
In conjunction with Shriners’ Hospitals for Children, UC Davis pediatric specialists participate in the care of children with orthopaedic conditions, spinal cord injuries and burns. Located across the street from UC Davis Children’s Hospital, the Sacramento hospital is the flagship of the Shriners’ Hospitals’ pediatric specialty health care system.

**Kiwanis Family House**
The Kiwanis Family House offers inexpensive accommodations to family members of children who are in the hospital. Accommodations include individual bedrooms, kitchen facilities, bathrooms, laundry, pay phone and hookups for recreational vehicles. For more information, contact UC Davis’ Social Services, at 916-736-0116.

**Ronald McDonald House**
At the Ronald McDonald House, families can stay in private bedrooms and share common kitchen, living and laundry facilities at low or no cost. An hourly shuttle from the Children’s Hospital is provided. Please call 916-734-4230 for more information.
How to help

Support UC Davis Children’s Hospital
UC Davis Children’s Hospital is committed to ensuring the health and well being of children by providing them with the most advanced care possible. Donations help make it possible for UC Davis Children’s Hospital to provide the highest level of care to many of the region's sickest children. To learn more about making a donation, please call 916-734-9400 or visit children.ucdavis.edu/giving.

Children’s Miracle Network
UC Davis Children’s Hospital is a proud member of the Children’s Miracle Network and participates in the organization's annual fundraising campaign. Children's Miracle Network is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds for and awareness of children’s hospitals. One hundred percent of funds raised locally stay local.

Volunteering
Volunteers give their time and receive many rewards in return. To learn more about volunteering at UC Davis Children’s Hospital, call Volunteer Services at 916-734-2401 or visit healthsystem.ucdavis.edu/giving/time.